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The Beacon

Vol. XI Number 6

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www.merrimacknewspaper.com

First Lecturer Named

Ganser a Star, On and Off Court

Kali Tudisco '15

Staff Writer

On Feb. 25, senior Katie Ganser will have an opportunity to speak to the entire Merrimack community as she delivers the fourth annual First



Lecture. Ganser, who will be the first active student-athlete to give the First Lecture, has an exceptional resume at Merrimack. A four-year player and two-year captain on the women's basketball team and president of the Student Athlete Advisory Council, Ganser also boasts an impressive academic record. Majoring in biology/pre-med with a minor in psychology, she has spent four years on the Dean's List and the last three semesters on the President's List, and she now assists in research with professor Janine Leblanc-Straceski.

In addition to all of her other commitments, Ganser is a Student Ambassador, a member of the ODK honor society, and is deeply involved with Alternative Spring Break and the Campus Ministry. After graduation she plans to work for a year before attending medical school.

"I am really excited to have the opportunity to give back to the Merrimack community all that it has done for me," says Ganser. "I hope to give a lecture that will be interesting and inspiring to everyone who hears it, to get involved in their own ways and follow their own dreams."

The First Lecture is designed to give a student a

chance to deliver a formal message and have people listen, an opportunity usually only given to professors and scholars. The idea developed from a more common tradition known as the Last Lecture, in which a faculty member is selected to deliver a lecture as if it is the last that he or she will ever give. The Last Lecture was brought to Merrimack in 1999, but it was not until 2010 that the First Lecture was conceived.

When the Mission Effectiveness Committee was searching for ways to help the college bring to life its new mission statement ("To enlighten minds, engage hearts, and empower lives"), a group of four students suggested the idea of a student-given lecture, as students were given many opportunities to be spectators at events, but were rarely the active participants. Therefore, the First Lecture, a tradition entirely unique to Merrimack, was created.

This year, Ganser was selected by SGA from among 10 willing nominees, each with their own enthusiasm for the lecture and their own message to communicate. The committee interviews each nominee to see what kind of experiences and passions he or she could bring to a potential lecture.

Father Ray Dlugos, who was involved in the creation of the First Lecture and is now involved in the interview process, stated that this year's decision was the hardest so far, but that Ganser stood out not only because of her many accomplishments, but because of the great variety of her achievements and the passion with which she pursues her goals.

"Katie, as a Merrimack student, really has embraced the values that we claim are so important to us. She's a leader, she's a terrific teammate and friend, and she is very committed to service to others," says Fr. Dlugos.

The First Lecture will take place on Monday, Feb. 25 in Cascia Hall.



MC Is Watching Cameras Come to Campus

Kerry Phelan, '16

Staff Writer

The signs gave the heads-up: Over winter break, new security cameras were installed in the residence halls. With them came the question: Is the added measure really necessary?

In all, approximately 45 cameras are now located throughout the campus, in residence hall lobbies, quad areas, parking lots, and the campus center. According to Police Chief Michael Delgreco, the extra cameras are meant simply to add of the safety and security of the campus. He said the cameras can be an investigative tool for police, useful to investigate thefts or other student complaints. The cameras record continuously but the tapes are only viewed when an incident has occurred, and already they have helped police identify suspects.

"Some of these incidents may not have had a positive result if it were not for these cameras, and we also have received positive feedback from those victims," said Delgreco.

Student reactions to these cameras were mixed, with some undergrads concerned that the new measures are not only an invasion of privacy, but unnecessary given the size of the campus. However, police noted the cameras are mounted only in public areas and will never be used in residence hallways, rooms, or other private areas.

Said Delgreco, "The decision to add additional cameras around campus was a proactive one. Though the college is a safe environment, as we grow in population and number of buildings, we continue to look for ways to guard and maintain the overall safety of our residents, staff, and visitors." "If it's for my safety, I can't really complain, I guess, as long as they are not abused," said freshman Kathleen Mooney.

As Merrimack continues to expand, students should expect to see more cameras being added to public areas. Other students suggested they be placed near the fire alarms to combat the number of alarm pulls taking place this year on campus.

Glen Johnson of North Andover has been named special advisor to newly confirmed Secretary of State John Kerry. Pictured above, in the Rogers Center for the Arts, Johnson was a panelist for The Beacon's Forum on Faith, Press and Politics in 2012, when he was a political editor for Boston.com and The Boston Globe; he had previously worked at The Associated Press, The Sun of Lowell and the Salem News. Joined by his wife, Cathy, an alumna of Merrimack, Johnson dined with President Hopey, Beacon staff and college administrators in Augie's Pub and participated in the forum, which marked the 10th anniversary of The Beacon as Merrimack's newspaper.



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Questions on the Quad

By Agata Adamczuk '13
What are you looking forward to in the spring?



Jaclyn Caruso '13
Spring Break and the spring musical "The Producers."



Jess Seaver '16
Warm weather



Mark Mallory '16
I look forward to the snow melting

Police Log

Feb 7

Apartment RA on duty calls about a suspicious odor on the third floor of K Tower. Officer dispatched to investigate, reports call unfounded.

Feb 8

Police receive a report that students may have gained access to the Warriors' Den and Sparky's Place and vandalized the inside with food.

Feb 9

Student reports that another student has passed out and hit her head. Female student is alert and conscious on

floor with head stabilized. Andover Fire Department arrives, transports student to Lawrence General Hospital.

Student calls to report that she has been receiving harassing phone calls and text messages from male student. Police take information will continue to investigate.

Police receive a report of a female student passed out in the Deegan East second-floor bathroom. Female student is conscious. North Andover Fire Department arrives, transports student to LGH.

Feb 12

Police call North Andover Fire for a 27-year-old male in diabetic shock in the Deegan West parking lot. Non-student transported to LGH.

Feb 15

Student from E Tower complain about noise on the third floor. Police respond and speak with the residents of E Tower.

Feb 16

Student reports a fight in apartment H Tower. Police dispatched.

Police receive a report

of a male having a seizure. North Andover Fire arrives, transports male to LGH.

Feb 17

North Andover police ask Merrimack police for assistance at Royal Crest Apartments. Police report that approximately 50 Merrimack students have been cleared from the area and will be returning to campus.

Resident student calls to report his vehicle ran off the road on Cullen Avenue. Police arrive, report car is in the snow. Student calls AAA.

Mack Tweets

@JulieLouisee

Some classy sandwich dinner for education majors. #merrimack

@mollywicker

Warm fuzzy feeling every time I'm here. #merrimack #proudalum @Merrimack College

@drayna14

Great game tonight. Good to see #merrimack at the top of the charts!

@CaptainPancakes

Becoming an Orientation Leader, beating BC in hockey, and having a 5 day weekend. Great time to be a #Merrimack student

@gormstormz

#merrimack in first place. Get it. Nbd

@HendricksnUSCHO

Didn't have time today for a lunchtime run but I got my workout by walking from the parking lot to the #Merrimack rink. #construction

@Bradley_Davis14

Gonna get weird in here tonight. #firstplace #Merrimack

@AriannaCurley45

Went to Merrimack and fell in love. I think i found my school! #MC #collegevisit #Warriors

@lauren_ebowers

doing laundry at Merrimack is easily on my list of top 10 most obnoxious things ever

@Master_Bates

thanks to all the beauty Merrimack fans who travelled to Providence today!

@morsecodee

way too obsessed with Pitch Perfect

@MaryK8P

If Orange Leaf delivered I would be the happiest person

@HuiE_7

Sick in bed watching looney toons #childhood

@Gallo36V

That was a great nap. #NeededIt

@BONE_7_

Took a personal day today. First time sleeping in after a while.

@diehardhildner

Forgot my hair extensions at home #FirstWorld-Problems

@realmattkirkham

used to run to class when i was late. Now i tweet instead #lifeasasenior

@ColinFlannery1

In the morning there's a huge difference from 6 and 6:05



The Band Perry is a sister-brothers act.
Courtesy Photo

Country Music Coming to MC for Spring Concert

Sarah Buckwald '14
Staff Writer

In a surprise announcement, Merrimack's Programming Board said the featured artist at this year's annual concert will be The Band Perry, and students said they were thrilled with the decision.

"I'm really excited about The Band Perry coming," said sophomore Brianna Burk. "I think it's awesome that Merrimack is bringing country music for their spring concert."

The three members of the country music act are siblings: brothers Reid and Neil, who formed their own band in 2005, and later joined their older sister Kimberly.

The band signed with a record label in 2009, but it was another year before their breakout single, "If I Die Young."

The band's first CD has sold more than 50,000 copies, and the Perrys have received recognition from listeners all over the country.

Tyler McCarthy of the Programming Board said, "I'm so excited to have a country artist coming to Merrimack! It will bring a new and

exciting genre to Lawlor Arena!"

Lauren Foster, the board's 2013 co-concert chair, said that during the fall the board surveyed the student body about what musical genre they would like at the spring concert. Country was the favorite, and once the vote was in the board started looking at different country performers. They chose The Band Perry because of its popularity.

"The fact that The Band Perry's (next) album drops so close to the concert is an awesome opportunity for students to catch a brand new show of one of the top country music acts," Perry said.

"Pioneer," the band's sophomore album, is due for release on April 2.

Student Government Association Treasurer Tim O'Leary said, "The Band Perry coming to Merrimack is the culmination of a lot of hard work on MPB's Part. I'm so impressed that we were able to get such a famous group and look forward to the new album drop!"

Tickets will be on sale on Main Street during lunch and dinner next week. Student, guest, and public tickets are still available for purchase.

School News

Nemo Finds Merrimack

Jillian Toce '13
News Editor

Plans for handling Nemo began at Merrimack as soon as the blizzard was forecast. Two large college-wide meetings on Feb. 7, the day before the storm, focused on snow removal, contingency plans in the case of a power outage, dining services, events, RAVE alerts, and other communication plans.

The events affected by the storm included the 100 Days senior event and numerous athletic events.

"We were very fortunate to not have lost power," said Sara Hicks, the director of resident life. To help prepare for the snowstorm, her office picked up extra food and snacks for each residence hall.

Extra "Welcome Week" mugs were donated by the Office of Student Involvement, along with hot chocolate for residents.

As a safety measure – campus officials "erred on the side of safety from all fronts," Hicks said – the college barred guests and registered events for the weekend, but there were plenty of games and other activities brought to the residence halls.

Many students were asked to shovel out their cars, and most reported it was a positive experience.

"When I got the news that I had to go shovel my car out, I headed for the



Resident parking lot is a winter wonderland during Storm Nemo.
Photo by Patrick Lawlor

parking lot and saw everyone helping each other out with bins and shovels and anything else they could find," said junior Mary Unis. "It turned into a really fun and rewarding experience for all involved."

Everyone made the best out of the massive amounts of snow and I think that it showed how willing everyone here is to help out their peers. "

Unis also made use of the time she had stuck inside.

"I think that Nemo turned out to be a great experience for the residents of Merrimack, especially myself, because I had a lot of roommate bonding time," she said.

The college-wide recap meeting needed to be rescheduled, but the general consensus was that the storm impacted Merrimack less than it could have. The campus did not lose power and clean-up crews worked hard to support the campus.

SGA OKs Four New Clubs

Molly Canyes '15
Staff writer

This is Merrimack's big year. With the new residence halls on the way and an expanding Lawler, four new clubs have been formed on campus so far this year: The Exhibiting Artists, Her Campus Merrimack, The Merrimack Advertising Club and the Ski and Snowboard Club.

The Exhibiting Artists, also known as the ID Gallery, is a student-run art gallery that was founded by former student Paulina Amato.

This is the first time a student-run gallery has existed on the Merrimack campus. The gallery will serve as a place where students and possibly faculty and staff can display their artwork. The gallery will be located in Augie's Pub.

"The significance of the gallery is to get Merrimack students more interested in the arts because there is already a high focus on school. This is a great opportunity for students to display their creative talents to the Merrimack community. Also, it is a great way to strengthen alumni relations and campus pride," said Amato.

According to the president of the Exhibiting Artists Club, Jaclyn Caruso, "we are looking for students would like to be a part of the committee. The committee will help run and decide what kind of shows should be displayed and will also choose which pieces will be in the gallery."

Rachel Muller, coordinator of publicity is "really excited about promoting the artistic talent of Merrimack's students and incorporating this club as a permanent part of the Merrimack College community."

The gallery will host its first show on April 4, from 8 to 11 p.m. in Augie's Pub.

"Her Campus Merrimack is just one chapter of a major online magazine" according to the president of the club, Joanna Kingston. The original Her Campus was founded by three

Harvard undergraduates for a business project, for which they won a \$50,000 grant.

According to Kingston, Her Campus was brought to Merrimack because Sarah Buckwald, editor in chief, and Kingston "saw that this was unlike anything on campus, both as an entertainment source and as a resource for Merrimack students to pursue a different avenue of journalism than what the Beacon provides."

Her Campus Merrimack includes campus updates, articles on beauty, tips and other news. In order to recruit other members, Her Campus Merrimack will use various marketing tools including Facebook, Twitter and or flyers to recruit new members. The biggest tool staffers are using now is their word of mouth.

When asked about Her Campus, team members will tell the potential member about it and refer them to Sarah Buckwald or herself, depending on whether they want to join the editorial or business team, Kingston said. Her Campus will post flyers around the school and will create events on Main Street to raise awareness about the team.

According to the president of The Merrimack Advertising Club, Lucky Henry, "This is an opportunity for students who want to apply their talents and skills in a semi professional atmosphere."

The club handles Photoshop design, video editing and social media. In a sense, students can present a project to the club, and staffers will come up with a communication advertising campaign.

"The experience gained through being part of MAC can be compared to the experience of an internship at an external ad agency. The sky is the limit for what we can and will do," says Henry. In addition to what Henry said, it's a hands-on experience for students who don't mind doing a little extra work and getting their hands (and feet) dirty.

The Ski and Snowboard Club did not respond to Beacon questions before presstime.

Random Niceness Strikes Campus

Nicole Meaney '13
Staff Writer

It was an opportunity to go out of your way to do something for someone else. Maybe a classmate was carrying heavy books and needed the door held open. Perhaps a stranger paid for your lunch in the drive thru-line at the local bagel shop.

Acts of kindness don't have to be earth-shifting events; they can be small moves that put a smile on someone's face. A little kindness can make a big difference.

As Ellen Degeneres says at the end of each hour of her talk show, "Be kind to one another."

Feb. 11-15 was "Random Acts of Kindness Week," recognized at Merrimack with note-bearing clothespins all over campus that were meant to put smiles on recipients' faces. With messages like "You're beautiful" and "Keep smiling," students got a boost and were encouraged to pass the clothespin on, to either strangers or to friends.

The Honors' Council Table on Main Street provided treats and the chance for students to send surprise messages to people on campus.

Alumna Abby Clark '12 remembered her first encounter with the tradition. In December 2011 she was in the drive-through line getting her morning coffee. When she pulled up to pay for her order, the cashier at the window told her that the patron in front of her had paid for Clark's meal.

The two were strangers, and Clark still does not know who the person was, but it inspired her to follow suit. The following year around Thanksgiving, Clark continued the trend, buying a stranger's meal in the drive-through line as a surprise.

Random acts of kindness can occur sporadically, and happen unexpectedly. Although the week has ended, the trend can continue for all of 2013 and beyond.

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Lora Kaslow
Master of Nursing Student
Staff Nurse, Lowell General Hospital

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Relay Targets Cancer

Alicia Unis '13
Staff Writer

Each year we all see the posters of the people wearing purple, with whiteboard messages of hope, smiles, birthdays, family and friends. But what is the Relay For Life?

Hosted in locations across the world, American Cancer Society's Relay For Life is an "organized, overnight community fundraising walk" to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. During this event, teams pay to register and have individual fundraising goals they wish to generate prior to, and during, the event. Throughout the night, members from each team take turns walking laps around the track.

On April 5, Merrimack is hosting its own Relay For Life, and in true Warrior fashion, is determined to do it right. Live to Give President and Co-Chair of the Relay For Life Committee Becca Ryan says the monetary goal for this relay is to "raise enough money to match one year's tuition (and room and board) at Merrimack College," currently \$45,610.

More important, she said, is bringing the college community together.

The Merrimack relay is dedicated to making this experience "special" and specific to this campus. Ryan says that because of our size, this event really does bring "everyone together in one place." During the relay people camp out, play games, participate in competitions and ac-

tivities, and enjoy food and company.

The Relay For Life Committee tries to make this night as special and enjoyable as possible by providing a variety of sources of entertainment. Among these features for the night are food and snacks, student performers, tie-dye, themed laps, a Dance Team Zumba class, relay races and obstacle courses, a V.I.P. Lounge, a "jail" game fundraiser, and never-ending music and fun.

To prepare for this event, the Relay For Life Committee has been fundraising and promoting awareness throughout the year. Currently, they are in production of the Relay for Life poster campaign, advertising this year's theme of a world with less cancer and "more birthdays."

On Feb. 27 they will be holding their Spring Kick-Off, in which registration for relay is half the original price, at \$5. Also, they will be conducting the aptly named fundraiser The Purple Toilet; they wheel a purple porcelain bowl around campus, planting it in the offices of faculty and staff who pay \$3 to have it removed and can pay \$5 to have it placed in another office of their choice.

In addition, they will be selling American Cancer Society purple ribbons on Main Street to encourage students and faculty to increase awareness and "paint the campus purple." The profits for all fundraisers and the event will go to the American Cancer Society.

As of now, there are 25 teams and 191 participants registered for the Merrimack Relay For Life.

Events Remember King’s Legacy

Nicole Meaney ’13
Staff Writer

In August 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed the famous words, “I have a dream.” Forty years later, his vision of equality is being realized. At Merrimack, four weeks of events have helped acknowledge the Civil Rights hero’s dream, and the achievements and progress recognized by Black History Month.

Each day during February, to spread knowledge on social media, the Office of Student Involvement has issued a daily message about Black History Month on Twitter under the handle @OSI_MC. On Feb. 4, it shared, “On this day in 1913, one of the most courageous women, Rosa Parks was born.” On Valentine’s Day it tweeted, “On this day in 1923 the first black professional basketball team, ‘The Renaissance,’ was organized.”

While the OSI took to cyberspace, RAs in Residence Halls acknowledged the celebration by adapting their bulletin boards to the theme. McQuade Library displayed books about important figures in black history, including King, Parks, Malcolm X, and many others.

The Writing Center celebrated with, appropriately enough, a Creative Work contest. Students were encouraged to submit, by Feb. 20, a piece of writing, a video, a song, a drawing, or any other artistic interpretation of a quote that pertains to Black History Month. Winners will be announced Feb. 26, with first placing receiving \$50 Mack-

bucks, and second place \$25 Mackbucks.

On Feb. 11, Dr. Finnie Coleman gave a presentation entitled “Hip-Hop Culture, Race, and the Mythologies of a Post-Racial America.” The lecture addressed the role race has played and continues to play in hip-hop culture. Coleman also discussed how racial barriers are created and demolished by the perceptions of hip-hop culture, and addressed the misconceptions that can still arise within post-racial America. From Feb. 11-16, the Asian, Latino, African, Native American (A.L.A.N.A.) club presented a Leaders of Black History exhibit that highlighted influential and important figures who contributed to America’s black and African heritage.

On Feb. 26, Sodexo and Sparky’s are offering students a chance to expand their gustatory horizons with special soul food menus. The winner of the Writing Center’s Creative Work contest will also be announced at that dinner.

Spilling into the first two days of March, the Tunnel of Oppression interactive art event at the Rodgers Center for the Arts will explore contemporary issues of oppression, privilege, and power.

Black History Month 2013 is being presented by A.L.A.N.A., Campus Life, M.P.B., Office of the Provost, Office of Residence Life, Office of Student Involvement, and the Writing Center. Support has also come from Conference & Events, Rodgers Center for the Arts, and Sodexo.



Students left notes of peace and encouragement on campus
Photo by Alex Maas

MODERN DAY WARRIOR: *Attempt at Etiquette Requires More Effort*

Patrick Lawlor ’13
Editor in Chief

Giving up meat, my iPhone, social media, and above all, alcohol proved to be relatively easy challenges. In all three situations I was giving something up.

But this month, I am actually taking something on, which is proving to be the most difficult of all tasks. I am failing miserably at etiquette month. Not that I am eating lunch with mud-soaked boots propped up on the table or sleeping in class, but I am failing to correct behaviors that I have had for probably most of my life.

I have not been able to keep my mouth shut when frustrated with things. I have let my language slip (especially when on deadline in the Beacon newsroom), and I have been sarcastic. What I find difficult is to change the way I socialize with friends. Some of the common social bonds that friends have are laughing at the expense of one another, poking fun at trivial things about one another, and just gener-

ally bantering within the group. The worst part is, the second something unsavory comes out of my mouth, I know that I am failing at etiquette.

I know that when I rant about a frustration with someone or something that is annoying me, I am not practicing proper etiquette. Also, when sitting down or speaking with someone, multi-tasking with my phone has been a problem.

What is clear is that adding something to a lifestyle is significantly more difficult. Taking away even cherished items or practices are relatively easy. It’s like locking something up and throwing away the key. But when you have to do just the opposite, the task becomes much more of a burden — something I should have recognized.

Therefore, having placed my faith in the Modern Day Warrior project, I will extend my practice of etiquette until I feel that I have changed my lifestyle. As long as that may take, I will continue to remind myself what my obligations are.

Green Team Seeking Aid

Brittany Reissfelder ’13
Staff Writer

On a college campus there are many ways to be ecofriendly — helping the environment by recycling, for example. A college community produces enormous amounts of waste that could be diverted from the waste stream with a significant recycling effort.

The Green Team has been working at Merrimack for a few years, but the group is asking for more input and help, said team leader Autumn Linteau.

“The Green Team is currently

working with faculty, administration, Sodexo, and students” with high hopes of ramping up recycling on campus, she said.

Recycling bins and hauling will require more funding, she said.

Several students, questioned about recycling at Merrimack for this story, said they have rarely seen bins or recycled items themselves.

Those interested in helping can contact Linteau or other team members, including professor John Lyon and seniors Cory Ames and Devon Robinson.

What are you waiting for?

Waiting in line is officially over!

Pay with your MackCard

Download the free app

Order and pay with Tapingo

Grab your food and go!

Warriors Den

Zebi

Available on the App Store

Google play

MC Sitters Meet Families at Mixer

Brittany Reissfelder '13
Staff Writer

Most college students are always looking for opportunities to make a few extra bucks for the weekends, and each semester Merrimack College hosts a “babysitting mixer” to make it easy for them.

The events, staged as a fundraiser for the American Marketing Association, matches Merrimack students with local families as a way to bring the campus into the community and forge stronger ties between them – in addition to putting a few dollars into students’ pockets.

The AMA advertises the mixers on campus and throughout Andover and North Andover by posting fliers and works to help the parents and students make the right connections.

“Although there may be instances where there is an unequal ratio of students to families in attendance, families as well as students have been very pleased with the event,” said Stephanie Pomerleau, a member of AMA.

Shakya’s Successes

O’Brien Center for Student Success

Sabina Shakya, a senior studying health science and environmental studies and sustainability, can be seen all over Merrimack’s campus as both a senior resident advisor and a peer tutor for the Writing Center.

Her most recent accomplishment is being featured in Merrimack’s Student Success Story campaign.

Shakya has taken a particular interest and has brought a special fervor to the experiential learning portion of her studies claiming, “I have been able to volunteer in organizations off campus and have been part of several projects on campus ... Most of the projects that I took part in were in some way related to what I was studying. This helped me put what I was learning into perspective (in terms of a career).”

She has also prioritized and organized her career planning with the help of the O’Brien Center. “I have been going to the O’Brien Center for Student Success since my freshman year all the way through my final year here at Merrimack. I have received help writing and polishing my resume, looking for internship, job and volunteer opportunities, as well as discussing plans after graduation,” Shakya says.

She also expands upon the importance of attending career events including Career Fairs and Panel Events offered through the O’Brien Center.

Upon graduation, Shakya has plans to obtain a career in global health. She sees herself combining her zeal for travel with her work that entails moving around the globe for an international non-government organization (INGO) on health-based projects.

Reflecting on her time at Merrimack, she advises her fellow students: “Get as involved as you can. Merrimack College offers a lot of exciting opportunities, but you have to take the initiative to get what you want. Be proactive and start early.”

So what are you waiting for? Be proactive in your career exploration. Visit the O’Brien Center’s website for up-to-date career events, www.merrimack.edu/obriencenter. And don’t forget to stop by the Merrimack Career Fair on March 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the MPR to network with recruiters and explore the various internship, co-op and job opportunities.

In taking advantage of such opportunities, The O’Brien Center for Student Success can help support your personal success story.

Drink of the Week



Brianna Trabucco'13
Staff Writer

Hot Schnnocolate

- 1 Packet Hot Chocolate
- 1.5 Ounces Peppermint Schnapps
- 1 Peppermint stick



Storm Nemo ignores Merrimack’s plea.
Photo by Patrick Lawlor

MERRIMACK'S MOST INTERESTING PERSON

Ekkachai Kiatpatcharapol

KaraMarie Joyce '15
Staff Writer

You have probably seen this week's most interesting person around campus. You may recognize him by his flashy outfits as he struts through Sparky's, or by his extreme motivation as he works out at the gym each day, you see him and wonder: Who is he?

His name is Ekkachai Kiatpatcharapol, but to make it easier for his peers he goes by E.K.

E.K is from Bangkok, Thailand. He has two older siblings, a brother and a sister. All three of the Kiatpatcharapol clan decided to try attending school internationally; E.K's sister recently finished her master's degree in London, and his brother tried attending school in America but found he did not like it, so returned to Thailand to finish international school there.

Being the youngest child and watching his siblings explore other countries, E.K decided he didn't want to wait until college to do so. E.K came to America to attend not only college but high school as well.

E.K's aunt lives in Maynard, Mass., and extended him an offer to come live with her and attend school in the United States. This was an offer that he simply could not turn down; he packed his bags and moved in with his aunt to attend Hudson Catholic High School, where he thrived both ac-



EK marks Halloween as the Obamas, above, and parties with his closest pals.
Photos by Alex Maas

ademically and socially among his peers.

After graduating from Hudson Catholic he decided to further his education in America at Merrimack.

E.K lived on campus for three years; he now enjoys the commuter lifestyle, driving to campus from his apartment in downtown Andover. This short drive is noth-



ing compared to the drive he takes each weekend — around four and a half hours to New York

City, where he works as an interior designer.

While E.K's passion is home décor, he does not intend to pursue this as a career later in life. His major is civil engineering, and his life plan has always been to earn his degree and return to Thailand to work for his parents, who own a civil engineering company.

Between a hectic class schedule and trips to New York each weekend, E.K has very little time to have fun. "While you are all out partying and drinking, I'm decorating and shopping at home goods," he said.

However there are two weekends when he really lets loose and has fun at Merrimack with his friends, Halloween weekend and Spring Weekend, both of which are known to be the most fun weekends here at Merrimack. Since it is rare for E.K to be spotted at MC on the weekend, when these two events roll around he makes sure to be noticed. Elaborate Halloween costumes are a must for E.K — this past Halloween he dressed up as both Barack and Michelle Obama, creating an altar and setting the scene of the Obamas' wedding.

E.K is truly a gem, one of a kind and a friend to all at Merrimack. His is a smiling face that is sure to be imprinted on the hearts of everyone whose paths he has crossed on his journey from Thailand to America.

New Snowboard a Boon to Newbies

James Callens'14
Staff Writer

Do you see all the snow outside your dorm room window? Doesn't looking at the overwhelming piles just make you want to shred some powder? But there's a problem ... you haven't snowboarded before. Well, have no fear, because Boarder Kontrol will save the day. The Australian company Streetboardz has designed the Boarder Kontrol snowboard for all the novice boarders out there. The new design takes the intimidation out of learning with instant braking. Naturally, the first time snowboarding is difficult for everyone. Novice boarders meet the hills with terror and pain. One wrong move and you're eating an unpleasant mix of ice, snow and pride.

Braking and carving can be troubling at first, since it takes a bit of athleticism and technique that beginners might lack. The Boarder Kontrol board consists of a rear-mounted brake blade that digs into the snow. The leash at the end of the brake is activated by the rider and works via an engage and release system. The brake allows riders to stop and maintain a consistent speed. The leash is detachable so that the board may be used like any other. The brake blade is curved which assists in leaning over your front foot to turn and carve.

While descending, the rider can pull up on the leash at any time to activate the rear-mounted brake. However, the slit across the width (when the brake is removed) would prevent the board from functioning as smoothly as a standard snowboard.

Thomas Roby, a Merrimack College student and avid snowboarder, said the board seemed "innovative and easy to use. But it should only be used for the first day to get beginners comfortable riding."

The Boarder Kontrol board comes in sizes ranging from 110cm to 155cm. The board is set to launch this winter at ski resorts, as opposed to the commercial markets.

The Value of Higher Ed

Vince Bellino, '15 and Rafael Cabral '13
Staff Writers

A college diploma — once a sign of some financial privilege and a means of distinguishing oneself in the job market — has become, in many fields, a requirement, without which job applicants stand at serious disadvantage. With more and more colleges and universities opening their doors to more and more young people, most middle-class American children now grow up expecting that someday they will attend college.

But, as is true for most any good or service, as the demand for college education has gone up, so has the price. Over the past several decades the cost of tuition in the United States has significantly outpaced the national rate of inflation, while wages have failed to keep pace. As a result, a large gap has been created between the cost of a post-secondary education and a family's ability to pay for it.

Student loans were meant to fill that gap. And while these loans have given many students opportunities they would not have otherwise had, they are saddling others with debt they do not understand and do not have the means to pay off.

Recent statistics show just how serious the issue is. According to data published by Fair Isaac Corp. (FICO), delinquency rates on student loans made in the past two years stand at a record high of 15 percent, compared with 12.4 percent for loans made from 2005 to 2007. In addition, managers of major banks report they expect delinquencies to worsen in six

months, and do not expect that threat to bottom out any time soon. Compare those numbers to subprime mortgage delinquencies, a major catalyst for the credit crunch that sent the global economy spiraling. These reached 15 percent in 2007, right as the financial crisis started gaining ground.

Soon-to-be college grads must also grapple with a weak job market, calling into question whether the debt they took on for professional gain will ever pay off. Unlike mortgage debt, student loans cannot be absolved through bankruptcy. Furthermore, where homeowners can sell their houses to pay down their debt, students can never sell back their education.

Recent legislation passed by the Obama administration will ease the burden on recent and soon-to-be graduates who otherwise would have been crippled by hefty monthly payments. Members of Congress are now trying to pass a bill that would mandate colleges to provide data showing the average income graduates can expect to earn based on their institution and their major. The idea behind this is to provide more transparency and make sure students set realistic goals, which hopefully will help them make sound decisions about which college to attend, what major to pursue, and how to finance their education.

For the time being, though, students will continue to take on debt they simply will not be able to pay back. And until this issue is properly dealt with, graduates will increasingly question whether their degree was worth the risk — and the money.

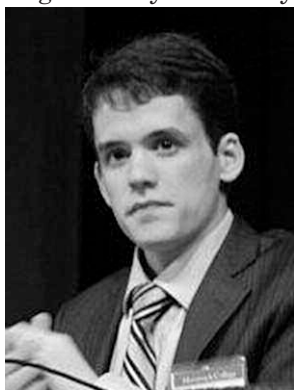
Olympics Err on Wrestling

Patrick Lawlor '13
Editor in Chief

On Feb. 12 the International Olympic Committee decided to cut wrestling from the Olympic Games beginning in 2020. I come from a family of wrestlers (I being the only one of my siblings not to wrestle), so this has obviously been a widely discussed topic in my household. My family members were infuriated that newer, more “ratings-based” sports were shoving out one of the most common sports in the history of man.

As early as 708 B.C., wrestling was an Olympic sport, and in 1896 when the Olympics were restarted, wrestling was there.

In an op-ed in The New York Times on Feb. 16, best-selling author and former wrestler John Irving criticized the opinion, noting that the pentathlon, in which only 26 countries participated last summer in London, would remain in the Olympics, while wrestling, in which presented medals to wrestlers from more than 29 countries in the last



Olympics, would be cut. The pentathlon is a combination of shooting, horseback riding, running, swimming and fencing.

Despite its “sexiness,” the pentathlon averaged only 12.5 million television viewers, compared to the 23 million viewers of wrestling.

According to Irving, “poor leadership allowed the sport’s enemies to take it down.” Is this a sign that the Olympics leadership is moving away from traditional and historical sports to appeal to what they believe is their new audience?

Wrestling is the ultimate Olympic sport. It is non-discriminatory; virtually anyone can wrestle. Much like running, it requires little equipment, allowing for a greater field of athletes, rich and poor alike. The Olympics is possibly the most globally inclusive event next to a war, and now the International Olympic Committee is effectively limiting what countries can participate. Do we really expect developing countries to be able to fund the resources to practice the pentathlon?

When a governing body such as the International Olympic Committee fails to recognize and appreciate the sports that are universal and the sports that have a deep and rich history among mankind, they are doing their constituency — the entire world — an injustice.

THEOLOGY WITH TIM

The Abdication of Pope Benedict

Tim Iannacone '12
Alumni Correspondent

Feb. 11 began no differently than most days at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford, Conn. But as I sat eating breakfast, another seminarian rushed into the dining hall to reveal the stunning news: Pope Benedict XVI had announced his abdication of the Chair of Peter.

In the ensuing hours, news pundits and secular media flashed the headline of this papal “retirement.” Predictably, this has led to a secondary argument among Catholics and non-Catholics as to whether a pope can “retire,” almost always using this word in the same manner as one would when referring to a secular occupation.

But the office of the papacy is unlike all others. One must be carefully tuned to understand what really occurred.

Canon law, which “regulates its external organization and government to direct the activities of Catholics toward the mission of the whole Church,” states: “If it happens that the Roman pontiff resigns his office, it is required for validity that the resignation is made freely and properly manifested but not that it is accepted by anyone.” Benedict’s decision was clearly made within the laws of the Church. Multiple news sources, and the pope himself, have confirmed the decision regarding his abdication was made with clarity, intelligence and freedom. Therefore, to refer to Benedict’s recent decision as a “retirement” is entirely incorrect.

One must also understand the nature of the papal office before rashly describing Benedict’s resignation in entirely secular terms. Remember that it was Christ who chose Peter to be “hanc petram” (“this rock”) and not the other way around. The Petrine office is not Bill Gates’ office, nor the Oval Office. The pope, while human, holds an office that is “absolute and not validated by human approval.” With a normal resignation, one usually submits a letter of resignation to the boss. To whom should Pope Benedict submit one, for his only boss is Christ?

Therefore, using the most appropri-

ate terminology, Benedict’s decision of abdication must be looked upon with the utmost respect from both Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The democratic world is entirely foreign, and indeed scoffs at things such as divine right and ordination (in the loosest sense). It is unfortunate how both the media and the modern democratic mind cannot look at this particular situation any differently than a president resigning from office.

Many have discussed previous popes who abdicated the throne of St. Peter, such as Pope Celestine V in 1294. However, those who do this forget that cultural and historical situations play a major role in the life of the pope. Celestine, a monk and hermit prior to his election, was pope for only 161 days. This man, although extremely spiritual and close to God, was not suited to be in a position that required administration. Celestine’s life was indeed radically different from Benedict’s, yet they both humbly understood themselves unfit for the position.

There is a saying in Rome: “Morto un papa se fa un altro” (when the pope dies, we make a new one). Though Benedict has not yet gone to his eternal reward, the sentiment is relevant. While sadness and grief should overcome a Catholic concerning the loss of a pope, the Church continues on her march through history, with the obligatory aid of faith and prayers. Commonly forgotten in the political hubbub of electing a new pope, the value of prayer for the pope and for the cardinal-electors cannot be understated.

Some have worried that the abdication of the pope could cause schism — a breaking away of Catholics who will believe that Benedict is still the true successor of St. Peter and the new pope is a sort of “anti-pope.” Benedict said he has no fear that Catholics will break into factions. We are fortunate enough to live in a time that will see a smooth transition from an abdicating pope to his successor without the fear of revolt from both the governing body of the Church and the laity. The pope believes that unity will be preserved, even amid the absurd fears that that he will meddle in the af-

fairs of the new pope. Those who have read Benedict’s writings know that this would be completely out of character for the 85-year-old pontiff. We should look to the example of Celestine’s abdication; he was so terrified of the thought of meddling in the new pope’s reign that he tried to flee to Greece. Benedict has a similar approach, even though he is only moving to the other side of Vatican City.

There is a stark contrast between Benedict’s abdication and his predecessor’s choice to suffer in office until his death. But the Petrine office always remains the same. While there are characteristic differences between popes, the fact still remains that, as the San Francisco Examiner wrote, a “pope, whether he dies in office (as is the norm) or whether he abdicates, does not govern based on human approval, but based on the Gospel and the good of the Church. As Benedict has done this, so will his successor.”

Pope John Paul II showed the Church and the world that suffering with and for Christ is one of the greatest things a human can do in order to manifest his or her love for Christ in the light of the cross. Benedict has also shown us humility in action. This humility mirrors that of Christ, who put His power aside in order for humanity to be reconciled with His Father. Both popes led by example and not self-interest. Both decisions also offer the faithful, and indeed the unbelieving world, a pedagogical example of virtue.

Benedict has declined immeasurably in health since his election to the papacy. This man, who has stated that he had never wanted to be pope, has had to listen to many malicious comments from those who think they know everything about this man’s life and the situation he is going through. We will never know the difficulties of being a holy pope and we can only trust that his decision was made in unison with the will of Christ, to Whom the pope prayed for guidance. The fact is that we know nothing about this situation and the only thing we can do is pray for the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, and his successor, that he may govern the Church with fidelity and strength.

Opinion

On Hagel, GOP Shows True Colors

Roger McCormack '14
Staff Writer



Mitt Romney's handy defeat in the 2012 presidential election has prompted some soul-searching for the GOP, lest they be relegated, in former President Reagan's parlance, to the "ash heap of history." Immigration, gay marriage and other social issues have been mentioned as issues which, if their positions are revised, could propel the Republicans back to prominence. Nevertheless, the extreme ideology fueling the party's foreign policy remains incredibly dominant, and is apparent in the contemptible tactics during the Senate hearings for President Obama's nominee for secretary of defense, Chuck Hagel.

Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska, was nominated as the Pentagon seeks closure in Afghanistan and contends with a potentially smaller budget amidst Washington's wrangling to avoid massive reductions in spending, otherwise known as the sequester. It seems obvious that naming a secretary of defense quickly and efficiently would be essential given the increasingly volatile situation in the Middle East, not to mention around the world.

However, Senate Republicans remained unmoved, preferring to lick old wounds. Sen. John McCain's grilling of Hagel over his "nay" vote on the Iraq troop surge is telling, given that the war has ended and other foreign policy exigencies (China, North Korea) are preponderant.

The 2007 surge was described by Hagel as "the most dangerous foreign policy blunder in this country since Vietnam," though his view has since softened (now he says, "Well, I would wait for the judgment of history to sort that out," in regards to the surge's achievements). The present situation on the ground in Iraq comprises rampant political instability, vulnerable minority groups, and rancorous sectarian violence. This emphatically supports Mr. Hagel's assertion: "We lost almost 1,200 dead Americans during that surge, and thousands of wounded ... Now, was it required? Was it necessary?"

Despite his sagacity, Hagel displayed a reticence in the Senate hearings unbecoming of a man asked to make life-and-death decisions for American troops, rejoining, "I'm not prepared to give you a yes or no answer" to McCain's desire for a sharply defined position concerning the Iraq surge. Still, Hagel's public career stands as a comfort to anyone desirous of a prudent foreign policy.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, from which he still carries shrapnel, Hagel is a vestige of an age in which conservatism was not wedded to foreign crusades. A principled dissident, Hagel voted against President Bush's government-expanding Medicare Part D and No Child Left Behind. Declaring "Nothing in my oath of office says that I pledge allegiance to the Republican Party and George Bush," Hagel has made enemies across vast swaths of his party. Originally voting for the war in Iraq, he later became an outspoken critic, with The New York Times reporting that he called the reconstruction of Iraq "beyond piti-

ful" and likened U.S. involvement in Iraq to our role in Vietnam.

Today, Hagel may rue the consequences of those decisions, with the Senate hearings offering Republicans a chance for reprisal, given that the neoconservative foreign policy of exporting democracy to the Middle East remains fettered to the GOP. Ted Cruz, Republican senator from Texas, repeatedly called for closer examinations of Hagel's finances, bleating: "It is at a minimum relevant to know if that \$200,000 that he deposited in his bank account came directly from Saudi Arabia, came directly from North Korea." Hagel had already complied with the necessary financial records he was required to disclose, showing Cruz's accusation to be both outrageous and specious.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, the Democrat from Missouri, opined that Cruz "basically came out and made the accusation about money from North Korea or money from our enemies ... without a shred of evidence ... In this country we had a terrible experience with innuendo and inference when Joe McCarthy hung out in the United States Senate, and I just think we have to be more careful."

This attack was connected to Hagel's past comments indicating less than zealous support for Israel; he once said there is a "Jewish lobby that intimidates a lot of people up here" (meaning Washington), adding, "I'm a United States senator, not an Israeli senator." Hagel simply underscored the influence pro-Israeli groups have in the United States, with the Christian right contributing heavily alongside Jewish benefactors. While "Jewish lobby" is seen as politically incorrect in contrast with the term "Israeli lobby," it appears to be more an issue of semantics than what an unnamed Senate aide called "the worst kind of anti-Semitism there is."

Hagel's additional criticism of Israel offered a précis of the hell visited daily on Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: "There is no justification for Palestinian suicide bombers, but neither is there justification for Israel to keep them locked up like animals." He has since modified his position, somberly pronouncing regret for his choice of words. This is a shame. A video posted on Mondoweiss, a website devoted to news in the Middle East, documents numerous Israeli soldiers bullying Palestinians at a checkpoint along the West Bank and saying things like, "Animals. Like the Discovery Channel. All of Ramallah is a jungle. The problem is the animals are locked in, they can't come out. They aren't humans, we are."

These checkpoints, which pepper occupied territory on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, are seen as a necessity to prevent terrorists from entering Israel. While obviously valid, it does not excuse the behavior of Israeli soldiers to Palestinian civilians, a smattering of racist discourse and gross human rights abuses. Of course, Hamas, the Palestinian organization which engages Israeli militarily, perpetrates egregious attacks on Israel, while ruling the Gaza Strip with fascist tactics. These tactics are rightly condemned. It does not follow, however, that criticizing Israeli occupation is a position undertaken only by anti-Semites, given the deleterious tactics employed by many Israeli soldiers on Palestinian civilians.



McCain, left, and Graham

That the right wing is enraged over Hagel's statements accentuates the fact that criticism of Israel and Palestine are not mutually acceptable positions in the American "mainstream," though it is a "mainstream" that Hagel's interrogators have decided upon. Of course, Palestine engenders a microscopic amount of backing across the American political sphere, not just among Republicans. For example, 96 Senators signed a 2000 resolution in support of Israel; Hagel and three others did not.

The accelerated expansion of Israeli settlements (a consequence of Palestine's request for U.N. recognized statehood), has resulted in the deterioration of an already miasmatic situation. The Israeli government's policy of settlement creates pervasive exploitation, including the demolition of Palestinian homes, the destruction of Muslim edifices dating to the Ottoman Empire, the confiscation of land used by Palestinians for agriculture, and the virulent employment of physical violence on neighborhoods that are viewed as too "disruptive." Seven hundred children have been killed since 2005 on occupied territory. This evidence suggests that Hagel's shirking from a condemnation of Israeli occupation during the Senate hearings was a capitulation to the dogmatism and arrogance of prevailing U.S. foreign policy.

At long last, McCain and Sen. Lindsey Graham have announced that they will discontinue their blocking of Hagel's nomination. This follows a filibuster initiated by Senate Republicans to further delay the confirmation, linking their obstructionism with events in Benghazi, Libya, completely unrelated to Hagel. While this does little to bolster the Republicans' standing, the lacuna between now and Monday will be the end of the confirmation squabbling, though the proceedings further indicate the dangerousness of entrusting foreign policy-making to a party that is capable of the uncritical, dogmatic loyalty seen in Hagel's hearings.

If nothing else, Chuck Hagel as secretary of defense may embrace the ability to chip away at this polarized foreign policy ethos, so easily assumed and relinquished just as arduously. The introduction of greater nuance into the debate over the Middle East peace process, not to mention holistic American foreign policy, is a vital and indispensable task. The caricature of an inveterately fascistic Palestinian populace is severely undermined by the harsh reality in occupied territory.

Unfortunately, President Obama has failed to denounce Israeli occupation, hedging his bets politically. Hopefully the confirmation of Hagel will lead to a re-evaluation of U.S. foreign policy objectives, perhaps including an ethical requirement countries must fulfill before foreign aid is granted.



Hagel

YMCA No Longer Free for MC Students

Evan Mercier '14
Staff Writer

Merrimack students' free ride at the YMCA of Andover/North Andover has ended.

Students who previously were allowed access to the Y with their MackCards are now being turned away unless they are members through another source.

In 2012, the college announced a partnership with the Y, located about a quarter of a mile from campus on Peters Street.

The deal gave Merrimack students the opportunity to use facilities at the Y such as the swimming pool, sauna or gym facilities.

It also gave Y members the opportunity to use the rink in the Lawler Arena during open skate times.



The deal, according to Y Executive Director Alex Turek, is no longer in existence. "We have a young adult rate that is for ages

19 to 23 that costs only \$26 a month and is half the cost of our adult membership.

"This category was created with the college student in mind as well as others in that age range," Turek said.

Turek is new to the Andover/ North Andover Y and was not employed at that location when the deal was made with Merrimack, he said.

Merrimack athletes often used the pool for cross training when trying to give their legs a rest.

The pool at the Y offered student athletes that alternative training method.

However, many students also used the Y gym when the Sakowich Gym is overcrowded.

College officials at press time did not have information pertaining to the deal with the Y or its end.

The Beacon will continue to look into this story.

UMass-Lowell Goes Division 1 in All Sports



Marty Meehan

Michael Romanella '13
Sports Editor

UMass-Lowell is the latest to make the leap out of the Northeast-10 Conference into Division I.

Starting next fall, the River Hawks will compete in Division I as a member of America East. Last fall UMass-Lowell developed a strategic athletic plan that suggested the move to Division I for all sports excluding hockey, as the River Hawks are already a member of Division I's Hockey East.

"UMass-Lowell is proud to have been chosen to join the America East Conference, not just on the basis of

the strengths of our outstanding athletics programs and facilities, but also because of the university's excellence in academics, research and vibrant campus life," said UMass-Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan, a former congressman from the Merrimack Valley.

This dream move became more of a reality after Boston University decided to leave America East for the Patriot League, which will officially happen on July 1.

This opened the door for Lowell, as they had an interested conference seeking a replacement — not to mention that the league is headquartered

in Cambridge.

UMass-Lowell will become the second school in the University of Massachusetts system to compete in Division 1, joining UMass-Amherst.

UMass-Lowell has 17 athletic teams, and will add men's and women's lacrosse starting next spring. The Red Hawks move will take effect July 1.

President Christopher Hopey, as part of his strategic plan, The Agenda for Distinction, has envisioned Merrimack's move to Division I in all sports.

Currently the only Division I program at Merrimack is men's hockey.

Coach Perry Leaves

Terence Barclay'13
Staff Writer

Warriors head football coach John Perry has resigned after five seasons at Merrimack.

He will be an assistant coach at the University of Delaware.

Perry's up-tempo, high-scoring offense was tops in the league for five straight seasons, as Merrimack won the 2009 Northeast-10 Championship, its first-ever league title. Perry took the program to new heights, as linebacker Shawn Loiseau became the first player in Merrimack history to sign an NFL contract.

He led the Warriors to a 29-21 overall record in his five seasons, and produced six All-Americans, including the 2012 Northeast-10 Most Valuable Player, Isaiah Voegeli.

In 2012, the Warriors finished with a record of 6-4 and fifth place in the Northeast-10, led by Voegeli and the Northeast-10 Offensive Player of the Year, Joe Clancy.

"I'd like to thank John for his dedication to the football program during his five seasons at Merrimack," said Interim Director of Athletics Dean O'Keefe. "We will begin a national search immediately and look forward to introducing a new head coach to build on our history of success and lead Merrimack next season and beyond."

A 1992 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Perry coached at Brown, Dartmouth, Northeastern, Georgetown, New Hampshire and Hofstra prior to coming to Merrimack in 2007.



Coach Perry leaves with a 29-21 MC record.

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WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT

Jesse Fowler: Track & Field

Michael Romanella '13
Sports Editor

No injury has set Jess Fowler back in any sport, and this track season is no different. A two-sport athlete at Merrimack, Fowler suffered a knee injury during the ladder part of the 2012 football season. He would undergo surgery in December to repair his meniscus. The craziest part of this story is that Fowler returned to action last week to compete in the NE-10 championships — just two months after going under the knife. Fowler has been there from the start. He was part of the original Merrimack track team in 2011. Fowler has gained success both on and off the track. No telling where he will end up, but what we do know he’s going to be successful in any avenue he pursues.

Q: What age did you start running?
A: 5.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?
A: Michael Jordan.

Q: What pregame rituals do you have?
A: Music — gets me into the zone. Also don’t talk to me — I never respond, just high fives.

Q: What is your major?
A: Economics.



Jesse Fowler

Q: What are your plans after college?
A: Find a job that pays a lot of money, maybe grad school.

Q: What was your favorite meet at Merrimack?

A: Sophomore year: finished fourth at New Englands for all divisions in 100 meter and 200 meter.

Q: How are you preparing this year New Englands?
A: Working out whenever I can. Trying to recover from knee surgery in December rehab. Not to mention track practice every night.

Q: Which practices were harder for you: football or track?
A: Football practice. They want you to be fast and strong at the same time. And football practice lasts much longer, rain or shine.

Q: How does it feel to be a part of something from the beginning, like track?
A: Everything you do is technically a record because no one had made any records yet when I started my sophomore year here. We started to set an example for everyone to come and participate. The bar has definitely been set high at Merrimack. We are moving in the right direction with this program.

Q: How did you get into track?
A: I started in my senior year of high school, just to prepare myself for college football. Then my track coach from high school, coach Mark Connolly, came to coach with Merrimack’s track team, so it made the decision easy for me to start running again my sophomore year.

Men’s Lacrosse Season Preview

By Andrew Hurd '13
Staff Writer

The Warriors of men’s lacrosse will be starting up a brand new season in March and have high expectations. Following a dominant 2012 spring, the Warriors look to have success in back to back seasons.

The laxmen posted a record of 13-3 and were undefeated at home. Their conference record was also impressive, tallying 8 wins and only 2 losses. The team has many key contributors returning and will they will be counted on to lead the team to another great season. Senior Mike Perdie expects big things for the team this season and from himself. Perdie says the team has big goals, reaching the NCAA Tournament in particular. He adds, “Last year we only graduated eight seniors, so we are returning a majority of our starting lineup. The returners are going to carry a heavy load this year to ensure that our younger players stay focused on our goal.” The Warriors will look to pre-season All-Americans Corey Lunney and Greg Melaugh and Honorable Mention All-American Perdie to lead them this season. Each of these players is coming off a terrific 2012 season and their hard work has been noted. Other key players, including DeeJay Brown, Jamie Shand, Bryan Polack, Jimmy Holland and Brandon Waiter, will also be heavily relied upon. They are all expected to perform at a high level. Merrimack enters the season ranked fifth in the country and no. 2 in the NE-10 Conference. Perdie likes what he sees so far. “Our team looks pretty solid, but we are striving for perfection and we are continuing to work towards that everyday,” he said. Their first game is at home on March 9 vs. Limestone, a key game for the Warriors.



Perdie

Warrior Athletic Schedule

Friday Feb. 22
M / W Track & Field: at New England Championships All Day

Saturday, Feb. 23
W Basketball: at SNHU 1:30 p.m.
M Basketball: at SNHU 3:30 p.m.
M & W Tennis: at Colgate TBA
M / W Track & Field: at New England Championships All Day

Sunday Feb. 24
M Hockey: Boston College TV: CBS Sports Network 4 p.m.

Tuesday Feb. 26
W Basketball: Franklin Pierce 5:30 p.m.
M Hockey: at Boston University 7 p.m.
M Basketball: Franklin Pierce 7:30 p.m.

Friday March 1
W Tennis: Assumption 1 p.m.
M Hockey: at Umass-Lowell 7 p.m.

Saturday March 2
M Tennis: at NYIT 1 p.m.
W Lacrosse: at Assumption 3 p.m.
Baseball: Bridgeport at Haverhill Stadium DH: Game 1 1 p.m.
Baseball: Bridgeport at Haverhill Stadium DH: Game 2 4 p.m.

Sunday March 3
Softball: at Adelphi 12 p.m.
Softball: vs. LIU Post (at Adelphi) 2 p.m.
M / W Track & Field: at Columbia Last Chance All Day
M Hockey: Umass-Lowell TV: CBS Sports Network 4 p.m.

Friday March 8
M Hockey: Massachusetts TV: WBIN 7:30 p.m.
M Tennis: at Boston University 3 p.m.
M / W Track & Field: at NCAA Indoor T&F Championships All Day

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Hockey: A Matter of Belief

By Patrick Bradley '14
Staff Writer

When Merrimack's second-half campaign began back on Dec. 29, there wasn't a long list of positives for fans to point to in hopes of a better second half. The team who had achieved unparalleled success for the program the previous two seasons stood unranked and sporting a 6-8-4 record, including ugly 4-4-1 Hockey East conference record. Beyond that, at home in Lawler Arena where these Warriors typically thrived, they were only 3-3-3.

Sure, the team had shown flashes of brilliance, most notably in its opening game at Union College – a 4-1 victory on the road against the no. 5 team in the country. However it had also shown just how bad it could be, highlighted by a five-game stretch in November where the team went 0-4-1 with an ugly loss to unranked Connecticut.

For captain Jordan Heywood, that was all part of the process.

"Early in the year we saw flashes of how good our team could be, but we also saw flashes of how bad we could be. We were pretty inconsistent at times."

It's always difficult to pinpoint an exact moment in a season and call it a turning point, but for a team that struggled with consistency all season long, finally finding some has done the trick.

For the first half and into the second, Merrimack coach Mark Dennehy did not start a goalie in two consecutive games. Very early in the season he said he wanted the two to battle and win the position, and as the season progressed he assured everyone it was not a platoon but who the coaching staff liked best in the matchups. The strategy worked, statistically, as both sophomore Rasmus Tirronen (.914 percent) and junior Sam Marotta (.913 percent) had tremendous save percentages and played well. However, after Tirronen surrendered 3 and 4 goal games to Union and Boston University respectively in his first two starts of the half, Dennehy stuck with Marotta.

The junior goalie has now started 10



Early inconsistencies gave way to unparalleled success for the Warriors.
Photo by Patrick Bradley

straight games and 12 overall since the Christmas break. In those games, Marotta has allowed more than 2 goals only once, posted two shutouts, and has an elite 1.66 Goals Against Average and route to a 8-1-3 record

"The no. 1 guy is the guy in net that night," said Dennehy. "Goaltending is a strength for us. Sam has been playing great, and he's the beneficiary because of it."

The team has responded as well, playing their way back into the national conversation. Since the break, Merrimack has gone 8-3-3, including a 5-1-0 record at home and an 8-2-2 mark in Hockey East play. These totals have pushed Merrimack up to 17th place in the USCHO.com National Rankings, as well as first place in the Hockey East Standings.

Where the rankings really matter, though, are in the Pairwise Rankings (PWR), which help the NCAA selection committee determine which teams qualify for the chance to play for the National Championship. The top 16 teams make the NCAA Tournament, and Merrimack is currently tied for 17th with Rensselaer Polytech. With six games left on their schedule, all of which are against Hockey

East teams and four of which are against nationally ranked competition (no. 4 BC, no. 15 BU, no. 12 UMass-Lowell twice), the Warriors hold their destiny in their hands.

With that in mind, how far can this team go? Dennehy has high hopes.

"I believe our best hockey is ahead of it," he said. "We're back in the conversation, which means we've done some good things. But if you want to dream it, you have to believe it. I'll be damned if I go on the bench with a team who doesn't believe they can win that night."

Heywood agrees, and believes his team is hitting its stride at the right moment.

"The way that college hockey works is that the team who is playing the best at the right time can go the whole way. If you can put together one game then you can beat anyone. You look at (National Champions) BC last year, and they won 19 in a row to end the season when no one, at the beginning, really thought they were going to be that good. I think this team could do that too, I definitely believe that."

In the midst of what could be a special season for the Warriors, the buzz is starting to give fans something to dream for. So, Merrimack fans, heed coach Dennehy's advice – don't stop believing.

Sports



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Men's Basketball Wind Down As Women Prepare for Playoffs

Helen Gillis '13
Staff Writer

Men's basketball is ranked 12th in the NE-10 with a record of 10-14 overall and 7-12 in the NE-10. As the season comes to an end, the Warriors have two more games left.

Tomorrow, the team will travel to face the Penmen of Southern New Hampshire University, who are ranked eighth in the NE-10. The Warriors will finish their season here at Merrimack on Feb. 26 against Franklin Pierce at 7:30 p.m.

Women's basketball (12-11 overall, 8-11 in the NE-10) gear up for the playoffs. They will finish their regu-

lar season by competing against Southern New Hampshire University on Feb. 23 and will finish with Franklin Pierce.

Freshman guard Ashley Weissmann said, "I think this season has been a step in the right direction. It's been a learning experience and a gut check, but we're definitely moving forward." Her fellow freshman guard, Tia Scott, added, "When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality."

The Lady Warriors are ranked 10th going into playoffs. Their last home game will be Feb. 26 against Franklin Pierce, starting at 5:30 p.m.